

REMARKS

Claims 31-70 are pending.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.142 and §1.146, Applicants previously elected without traverse the invention of Group I, claims 31, 32 and 36-47, in a Response to Restriction Requirement mailed July 16, 2004. Accordingly, claims 33-35 and 48-70 are withdrawn from consideration.

As pointed out in an Office Communication dated September 29, 2004, Applicants inadvertently neglected to respond to the election-of-species requirement. Applicants hereby elect Factor Xa as the species with traverse. This election of species is made with the understanding that if the Examiner finds that the elected species is patentable, examination will be extended to other species within the full genus of the elected claims. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.146. Moreover, for reasons provided below, Applicants request withdrawal of the election of species requirement.

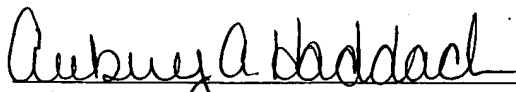
Only when an application is directed to more than one patentably distinct species may the Examiner require the Applicant to elect a species to be examined. See 37 C.F.R. §1.146. The Examiner indicated that the independent method claims of Groups I-III are generic to the classification of a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species of "target proteins" used in the claimed methods. For purposes of examination of the elected group of claims, Applicants admit that the identity of a particular target species lends no patentable distinctness to the claimed invention because the substitution of one target for another target in the recited methods is considered an obvious variation. Thus, Applicants traverse the election of species and respectfully request its withdrawal.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request prompt examination on the merits of the full scope of claims 31-32 and 36-47. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (858) 350-2319.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 22, 2004

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